

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 01125 161741Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01

ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 DRC-01 /142 W

----- 095088

R 161705Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4733

INFO SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

USMISSION NATO

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT IC

SUBJECT: PP - IP NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

1. PROGRESSIVE AND INDEPENDENCE PARTY GOVT-FORMATION
TALKS APPEAR TO BE GOING SMOOTHLY IN THIED DAY, ALTHOUGH
NEGOTIATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO LAST AT LEAST THRU WEEKEND.

2. APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF SHARED VIEW OF NEED TO ACT
QUICKLY ON ECONOMIC FRONT, PLUS FAILURE OF OTHER PLAUSIBLE
COALITION FORMULAS, BOTH PP AND IP ARE ACTING AS THOUGH
THEY ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE SUCCESS OF TALKS. EACH SIDE
HAS PUBLICLY INDICATED A READINESS TO BE FLEXIBLE ON
ISSUES THAT COULD OTHERWISE STALEMATE NEGOTIATIONS.

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DESPITE FACT IP IS LARGEST PARTY AND SELF-PROCLAIMED WINNER

IN JUNE ELECTION, PARTYS CHAIRMAN AND MAJOR NEWSPAPER HAVE CONSPICUOUSLY AVOIDED CLAIMING PRIME MINISTERSHIP IN POSSIBLE IP-PP GOVT, STRESSING INSTEAD OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF RESOLVING POLICY QUESTIONS. ALTHOUGH SOME IP ELEMENTS WOULD BE UNAHPPY, CURRENT ODDS FAVOR OLAFUR JOHANNESSON TO SUCCEED HIMSELF AS PRIME MINISTER IF TALKS SUCCEED. IP WOULD, UNDER THIS SCENARIO, GET TWO-THREE NEXT MOST IMPORTANT PORTFOLIOS, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTRY.

3. FOR ITS PART, PP IS APPARENTLY PREPARED TO STEP BACK FROM DEFENSE POLICY OF PREVIOUS GOVT AS PRICE FOR COALITION WITH IP. IN PP DAILY TIMINN EDITORIAL AUG 15, PARTYS PARLIAMENTARY LEADER AND FORMER FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN THORARINN THORARINSSON WROTE THAT DURING RECENT FOUR PARTY TALKS, PP HAD SOUGHT MIDDLE ROAD BETWEEN PA AND SDP SINCE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY NO LONGER EXISTED BEHIND PRECISE DEFENSE PROPOSALS FOMIN AGUSTSSON PUT BEFORE USG IN APRIL.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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